

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 AID-20 EUR-25 SR-02 ORM-03

RSR-01 /130 W

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O 231040 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2057

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9078

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP MAY 23 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DTD 23 MAY FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION: INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0537

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, MAY 23

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTION WAS AT A LOW LEVEL
DURING PAST 24 HOUR PERIOD WITH 11 INCIDENTS REPORTED:
FIVE VC MINIVQP(FOUR OF RVNAF TROOPS, ONE OF CIVILIANS);
FOUR VC HARASSMENTS BY FIRE; AND TWO FIRE FIGHTS BETWEEN RVNAF
UNITS ON PATROL AND VC . SIX INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN NORTHERN
BINH DINH, TWO EACH IN BINH THUAN AND PHU YEN, AND ONE EACH
IN NINH THUAN, PLEIKU, AND KONTUM. CASUALTIES: VC: NINE KIA;
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RVNAF: THREE KIA, 13 WIA. TWO CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED BY VC
MINE IN PHU YZVV
M

2. KONTUM ARRO REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT SHARP FIGHTING IN DAK ROCOT AREA EIGHT KMS NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY (VOIR: NHA TRANG 0534) BEGAN IN LATE APRIL WHEN THE 53 RD ARVN REGIMENT REPLACED THE 44 TH ARVN REGIMENT IN THAT AREA. SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT THE COMMANDER OF THE 44 TH REGIMENT HAD BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH COMMANDER OF THE 6 OVPVVA REGIMENT (DEPLOYED IN ZONE NORTH OF KONTUM SINCE MID 1972) AND THE TWO HAD APPARENTLY AGREED TO MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION WHICH CEDED DAK ROCOT HAMLET TO COMMUNISTS. AFTER THE ROTATION OF THE 53 RD AND 44 TH REGIMENTS, ARVN LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK AGAINST A BATTALION OF THE 66 TH NVA REGIMENT ENTRENCHED AROUND DAK ROCOT; THE FIGHTING WHICH ENSUED IS STILL ONGOING, THOUGH THE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY EITHER SIDE HAS NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLY SINCE CEASE- FIRE. (COMMENT: WE RECALL MR-2 CG TOAN'S VISIT TO KONTUM APRIL 25-26 DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE OVER SCOPE OF CONTACTS.)

3. ICCS: THREE CANADIAN MINEXTAFF OFFICERS ATTACHED TO SAIGON ICCS HQS VISITED PLEIKU (REGION III) ON MAY 19. SECRETARY OF DELEGATION IN SAIGON, ED SKRABEK, REFLECTED CANADA'S DISPLEASURE WITH ITS ICCS ROLE WHICH HE DATES BACK TO THE PERIOD BEFORE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND CANADA'S ANNOYANCE AT NOT RPT NOT BEING CONSULTED MORE CLOSELY REGARDING ALLEGED UNSATISFACTORY ASPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT, NOT FURTHER EXPLAINED. SKRABEK IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR PEACE AND DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT CANADA'S CONTINUED SERVICE ON THE ICCS WOULD SERVE ANY PURPOSE.

4. CANADIAN LIAISON OFFICER, GABRIEL LESSARD, BELIEVES OTTAWA WILL RENDER DECISION IN FAVOR OF WITHDRAWAL. HE DESCRIBED ELABORATE BETTING POOL AMONG CANADIANS IN SAIGON GEARED TO ULTIMATE DATE OF CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL. LESSARD EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER PERVERSIVE CORRUPTION IN VIET- NAM. HE BELIEVES GVN SHOULD REPLACE CORRUPT GENERALS, IMPROVE TRROP MORALE, AND THEN ATTACK. WITH GVN SUPERIORITY IN NUMBERS AND EQUIPMENT, AND ITS HOUSE IN ORDER, LESSARD
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FEELS THAT ARVN SHOULD BE UNDEFEATABLE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, LESSARD SAYS THAT MOST VIETNAMESE BELIEVE IT WOULD REQUIRE A NORTH VIETNAMESE TAKEOVER TO ROOT OUT CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTH.

5. CANDEL IN PLEIKU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AT NOT RPT NOT HAVING MINEXTAFF OFFICIAL PERMANENTLY POSTED TO THE REGIONAL

TEAM. HE BELIEVES THEY ARE EXCESSIVELY PESSIMISTIC. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, CANADIAN MILITARY SHORTCOMING IN ITS FAILURE TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS OTHER THAN THOSE SERVING ON THE JMC.

6. THREE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN ICCS REGION III WHICH SHOULD HELP THE ICCS' S EFFECTIVENESS AND/ OR MORALE.

A. PA& E PLEIKU HAS FINALLY RECEIVED SPECIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF ICCS AIR SERVICES CREW QUARTERS IN PLEIKU AND ESTIMATES WORK CAN BE COMPLETED IN TWO WEEKS. WHEN THIS IS DONE CREWS WILL OVERNIGHT IN PLEIKU RATHER THAN NHA TRANG, THUS SAVING TIME AND EXPENSE OF EXTRA PLEIKU- NHA TRANG FLIGHTS.

B. PA& E REPORTS EMBASSY' S DAO HAS MADE AVAILABLE NEEDED AIR- CONDITIONERS FOR ICCS QUI NHON WHICH WILL ALLOW ICCS TO EVACUATE HOTEL WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING AT CONSIDERABLE COST AND INCONVENIENCE.

C. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, PA& E IS NOW AUTHORIZED TO DRAW LIQUOR SUPPLIES FOR SUPPORT OF ICCS REGION III. UP TO NOW EACH DELEGATION HAS HAD TO MAKE ITS OWN, OFTEN UNSATISFACTORY, ARRANGEMENTS.

7. THE CAM RANH POINT OF ENTRY TEAM IS DOWN TO ONLY ONE CANADIAN AND ONE INDONESIAN. THE OTHER CANADIAN ROTATED TO HAU BON (CHEO REO) ON MAY 20 AND HAS YET TO BE REPLACED. THE ONLY HUNGARIAN LEFT FOR PLEIKU ON THE SAME DAY SAYING THAT HE MIGHT BE BACK IN A WEEK OR TWO. THE INDONESIAN SPENDS
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